

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An information recording medium for being loaded into an information reproduction apparatus so that information recorded on said information recording medium is reproduced by said information reproduction apparatus, having:

a recording region into which history information representing that said information recording medium has been played back at least once is recorded.

2. An information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the history information includes identification information for identification of said information recording medium or said information reproduction apparatus.

3. An information reproduction apparatus for reproducing information recorded on an information recording medium, comprising:

recording means for recording, onto the information recording medium, history information representing that the information recording medium has been played back at least once;

reproduction means for reproducing the history information recorded on the information recording medium by said recording means; and

control means for controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by said reproduction means.

4. An information reproduction apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising storage means for storing identification information for identification of said information reproduction apparatus, and wherein said recording means records the identification information as the history information, and said control means compares the identification information reproduced by said reproduction means and the identification information stored in said storage means with each other and controls reproduction of the information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

5. An information reproduction method for reproducing information recorded on an information recording medium, comprising the steps of:

recording, onto the information recording medium, history information representing that the information recording medium has been played back at least once;

reproducing the history information recorded on the information recording medium by the recording step; and

controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by the reproduction step.

6. A providing medium which provides a computer-readable program for causing an information reproduction apparatus for reproducing information recorded on an information recording medium to execute a process comprising the steps of:

recording, onto the information recording medium, history information representing that the information recording medium has been played back at least once;

reproducing the history information recorded on the information recording medium by the recording step; and

controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by the reproduction step.

7. An information recording and reproduction apparatus for recording or reproducing information onto or from an information recording medium, comprising:

recording means for recording, onto the information recording medium, history information representing that the information recording medium has been recorded at least once;

reproduction means for reproducing the history

information recorded on the information recording medium by said recording means; and

control means for controlling recording or reproduction of information onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by said reproduction means.

8. An information recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising storage means for storing identification information for identification of said information recording and reproduction apparatus, and wherein said recording means records the identification information as the history information, and said control means compares the identification information reproduced by said reproduction means and the identification information stored in said storage means with each other and controls recording or reproduction of the information onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

9. An information recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said recording means records the identification information onto the information recording medium when the information recording medium is initialized.

10. An information recording and reproduction method for recording or reproducing information onto or from an information recording medium, comprising the steps of:

recording, onto the information recording medium, history information representing that the information recording medium has been recorded at least once;

reproducing the history information recorded on the information recording medium by the recording step; and

controlling recording or reproduction of information onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by the reproduction step.

11. A providing medium which provides a computer-readable program for causing an information recording and reproduction apparatus for recording or reproducing information onto or from an information recording medium to execute a process comprising the steps of:

recording, onto the information recording medium, history information representing that the information recording medium has been recorded at least once;

reproducing the history information recorded on the information recording medium by the recording step; and

controlling recording or reproduction of

information onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with the history information reproduced by the reproduction step.

12. An information recording medium for being loaded into an information reproduction apparatus so that information recorded on said information recording medium is reproduced by said information reproduction apparatus, comprising:

identification means in which identification information for identification of the information recording medium or said information reproduction apparatus is recorded.

13. An information recording medium according to claim 12, wherein the identification information of said identification means includes history information representing that said information recording medium has been played back at least once by said information reproduction apparatus.

14. An information reproduction apparatus for reproducing information recorded on an information recording medium, the information recording medium including identification means in which identification information for identification of the information recording medium or an information reproduction apparatus

for reproducing the information recording medium is recorded, comprising:

reproduction means for reproducing the identification information recorded in said identification means; and

control means for controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the identification information reproduced by said reproduction means.

15. An information reproduction apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising storage means for storing the identification information for identification of the information recording medium, and wherein said control means compares the identification information reproduced by said reproduction means with the identification information stored in said storage means and controls reproduction of the information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

16. An information reproduction method for reproducing information recorded on an information recording medium, the information recording medium including identification means in which identification information for identification of the information

recording medium or an information reproduction apparatus for reproducing the information recording medium is recorded, comprising the steps of:

reproducing the identification information recorded in said identification means; and

controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the identification information reproduced by the reproduction step.

17. A providing medium which provides a computer-readable program for causing an information reproduction apparatus for reproducing information recorded on an information recording medium, which includes identification means in which identification information for identification of the information recording medium or an information reproduction apparatus for reproducing the information recording medium is recorded, to execute a process comprising the steps of:

reproducing the identification information recorded in said identification means; and

controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the identification information reproduced by the reproduction step.

18. An information recording and reproduction apparatus for recording and reproducing information transmitted thereto onto an information recording medium together with information identification data, comprising:

[storage means for storing the information identification data;

recording means for recording the information identification data onto the information recording medium;

reproduction means for reproducing the information identification data recorded on the information recording medium by said recording means; and

control means for comparing the information identification data reproduced by said reproduction means with the information identification data stored in said storage means and controlling recording or reproduction onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

19. An information recording and reproduction method for recording and reproducing information transmitted thereto onto an information recording medium together with information identification data, comprising the steps of:

storing the information identification data;
recording the information identification data onto
the information recording medium;
reproducing the information identification data
recorded on the information recording medium by the
recording step; and
comparing the information identification data
reproduced by the reproduction step with the information
identification data stored by the storing step and
controlling recording or reproduction onto or from the
information recording medium in accordance with a result
of the comparison.

20. A providing medium which provides a computer-
readable program for causing an information recording and
reproduction apparatus for recording and reproducing
information transmitted thereto onto an information
recording medium together with information identification
data to execute a process comprising the steps of:

storing the information identification data;
recording the information identification data onto
the information recording medium;
reproducing the information identification data
recorded on the information recording medium by the
recording step; and

comparing the information identification data reproduced by the reproduction step with the information identification data stored by the storing step and controlling recording or reproduction onto or from the information recording medium in accordance with a result of the comparison.

21. A storage medium for being removably loaded into an information reproduction apparatus, having recorded thereon identification information of an information recording medium to be played back by said information reproduction apparatus and identification information of said information reproduction apparatus.

22. An information reproduction apparatus for accepting a removable storage medium in which first identification information for identification of an information recording medium and second identification information for identification of an information reproduction apparatus which reproduces the information recording medium are stored and reproducing information recorded on the information recording medium, comprising;

storage means for storing third identification information for identification of said information reproduction apparatus;

reproduction means for reproducing fourth

identification means for identification of the information recording medium recorded on the information recording medium; and

control means for comparing the fourth identification information reproduced by said reproduction means and the first identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and comparing the third identification information stored in said storage means and the second identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and for controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with results of the comparisons.

23. An information reproduction method for an information reproduction apparatus for accepting a removable storage medium in which first identification information for identification of an information recording medium and second identification information for identification of an information reproduction apparatus which reproduces the information recording medium are stored and reproducing information recorded on the information recording medium, comprising the steps of:

storing third identification information for

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identification of said information reproduction apparatus;

reproducing fourth identification information for identification of the information recording medium recorded on the information recording medium; and

comparing the fourth identification information reproduced by the reproduction step and the first identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and comparing the third identification information stored in the storage step and the second identification information stored in said storage medium with each other and for controlling reproduction of information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with results of the comparisons.

24. A providing medium which provides a computer-readable program for causing an information recording and reproduction apparatus for accepting a removable storage medium in which first identification information for identification of an information recording medium and second identification information for identification of an information reproduction apparatus which reproduces the information recording medium are stored and reproducing information recorded on the information recording medium to execute a process comprising the

steps of:

storing third identification information for
identification of said information reproduction
apparatus;

reproducing fourth identification information for
identification of the information recording medium
recorded on the information recording medium; and

comparing the fourth identification information
reproduced by the reproduction step and the first
identification information stored in said storage medium
with each other and comparing the third identification
information stored in the storage step and the second
identification information stored in said storage medium
with each other and for controlling reproduction of
information recorded on the information recording medium
in accordance with results of the comparisons.